



# The Coolidge Times

## A Letter from the Principal By Amy B. Clouter

The end of October is eagerly anticipated by children and candy lovers everywhere. For adults and especially educators, however, this time of year brings a different kind of anticipation: the arrival of official MCAS scores. Although some students describe test-taking experiences as more trick than treat, there's no doubt that with MCAS results we all get something valuable in the end. The goody in this endeavor is data. I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you more about ours.

The most important thing to note is that there is lots of room for improvement. If you follow the MCAS story as reported in the *Boston Globe* you can see that as a district and as a school we face a challenge ahead as we aim to improve our scores.

Our goal is that all of our students become proficient in Reading and Math. Currently only 65% of our third graders scored Proficient or better. In Math, the percentage for third graders is lower, at 60%. In fourth grade, 61% of our students score Proficient or better, and in math only half of our students meet that goal. While our scores beat the state average, it's important to note that this isn't nearly good enough. Further, although we can learn a lot from any given year, schools pay close attention to patterns that emerge over time. So what can we learn from the specifics? Read on.

Both third and fourth grade groups do well when asked how?, what?, and when? questions about text they've read. Further, our students are skilled editors that proofread for writing conventions well. In

must improve inferencing skills. In other words, they have to do better at answering the Why? questions, at citing evidence in the text to support answers, and in rereading to discern the meaning of vocabulary terms. Finally, our students struggle with the 'open response' sections of the test. As a district and as a building we are looking critically at the ways we teach writing, and how we might add more nonfiction writing opportunities in the curriculum.

Our new Everyday Math curriculum has helped students to improve with operations, probability and algebra. However, our goal is to improve results in the problem solving sections of the exam, where students have to solve more open-ended challenges.

Calvin Coolidge						
Grade/ Subject	% Advanced	% Proficient	% Needs Improving	% Warning/ Falling	Students tested	Placement overall
3rd Reading	21	44	34	1	77	417 of 1,018
3rd Math	3	57	26	14	77	373 of 1,018
4th English	13	48	30	10	80	323 of 1,006
4th Math	20	30	36	14	80	296 of 1,006

order to do better, our students

How can  
you help? Please assist the staff

as we encourage 100% participation in the *Books and Beyond* program. Simply put, the more students read, the better. In addition, look to the Games kits your child brings home as a way of reinforcing basic skills and providing ongoing opportunities for practice. Finally, if you feel your child might benefit from extra help at school, please send them in early on Homework Helper days. Not only are parent volunteers available to assist with homework, but special educators and staff members are ready to provide some extra attention as well.

## IMPORTANT DATES

11/1: Halloween Candy Drive  
11/4-11/6: Book Fair in the Media Center  
11/7: -Parent/Teacher Conference Day \*No School\*  
11/7: Voting Day  
11/8: PTO Workshop – Homework: A Parent's Survival Guide at 7-8:30PM at SHS presentation room  
11/8: Fall Fundraiser pick-up 4-7:00pm in the gym  
11/10: Amazing Hero Art 7:00pm at Oak Middle  
11/10: Halloween Candy Drive Ends  
11/13: Thanksgiving Basket Drive ends  
11/16: PTO Parent Workshop – Internet Safety at 7-8:30pm at Sherwood Middle – cafeteria  
11/21: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade field trip to Plimoth Plantation  
11/22-11/24: \*No School\* Thanksgiving Vacation  
11/29: Wingmasters – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade enrichment program

**\*REMEMBER, WEDNESDAYS ARE BANKING DAYS\***

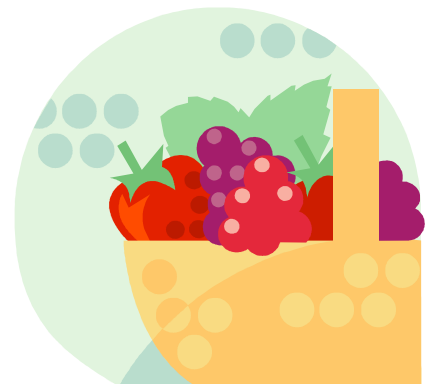
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### A Note From The Co-Presidents: 😊

The Fall Festival was a great success. The kids seemed to enjoy their special picnics outside during an extended recess and Tony Toledo was a big hit with all the kids! Lots of laughter was heard in the halls of Coolidge this past Friday – what a great thing! November brings lots of wind and the possibility of snow – brrrrr! The holidays are right around the corner and we at Coolidge are not forgetting our neighbors in need! Please watch for the Thanksgiving Basket notice – it is a wonderful experience for our children to

be involved in. Hope to see many of you at Hero Art on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup>. It's sure to be an unforgettable experience. The next PTO meeting is scheduled for Wed. Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Media Center. Hope to see you there! Please contact us if you have any questions

Karen and Sue



## CONGRATULATIONS MS. HARRITY

Congratulations to Rachel Harrity for receiving Professional Status. Last week faculty, PTO members, and administrators alike celebrated this special milestone at a local reception. A teacher is awarded Professional Status when she completes three years of distinctive service and meets the high standards of Shrewsbury Public Schools. Not all beginning teachers make the cut—we are thrilled to report that Ms. Harrity did. She joins many experienced and supportive colleagues at Coolidge School.



### ↔ Important...

#### **Read all About It!**

The Autumn Coolidge Book Fair is coming! Coolidge School students love the book fair and look forward to it each fall. It is really a very special event at our school.

This year our first Coolidge Book Fair is scheduled for **November 4 through 10**. It will be open during school hours. Your child will be coming to the media center during media class time and making a short list of books they wish to purchase. The list will come home along with a flyer that describes some of the books.

Please remember that you make the final decision of what your child may purchase.

Join us for the book fair. Share the books with your children and make great reading choices together. November 7 is parent conference day and the book fair will be going on all day. Stop by because we have a great selection of books for every interest and taste!

Martha Paine, Media Specialist  
Marge Fox, Media Aide

### **Informational Backpacks**

As in the past, the Health Department is providing the **Coolidge School** with **Informational Resource Backpacks**. The resource subjects available are as follows: **Child Protection Skills, Death and Dying, Sexuality, and Divorce**. These handy thematic backpacks are ready for you to borrow for a two week period with an opportunity for renewal. You may take them home and review the information yourself or share them with your family.

If you would like to borrow any of the Informational Resources Backpacks they are located in the **school nurses office**. You can sign them out or send a note to school with your child addressed to the school nurse and we will send the backpack home as soon as it becomes available.

Thank you,  
Cathie Burgholzer  
Elementary Health Teacher



## BOOKS & BEYOND

Mrs. Clouter is looking to have 100% participation in the Books and Beyond program this year. With your help your child can participate in this program. Just by having your child read a few minutes a day will help them toward this goal. As a parent you can help by reading to them or letting them see you read! Lets do what we can to encourage our children to read!!

## AMAZING HERO ART

Tickets are still available to see Rob Surette of Amazing Hero Art. He will be performing his "Be Somebody" show at Oak Middle School auditorium on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. He's sure to amaze your whole family! A limited number of seats are available, so be sure to get your tickets now! See Rob's web site at [www.amazingheroart.com](http://www.amazingheroart.com) for additional information. Contact Karen Jervah @ [kjervah@townisp.com](mailto:kjervah@townisp.com) or at 508-363-2487 for questions.

## THREE WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### 1. Collect Campbell's Labels and Box Tops for Education:

Who's up for a friendly contest? Let's see which Coolidge classroom can collect the most Campbell's labels and Box Tops for Education. The contest begins today and will end on 12/1/06. The classroom with the most labels will win lunch with Principal Clouter in the month of December. Now collecting Campbell's Labels for Education is even easier. You no longer need to send in the entire label, just the bar code with the picture of the child holding the Labels for Education Pencil. Campbell's now has some products whose labels are worth 5 points, so Coolidge can collect points faster. Check out [labelsforeducation.com](http://labelsforeducation.com) for more details.

### 2. Vote!

#### A Message from Citizens For A Better Shrewsbury:

Election Day is November 7.... Here is a reminder from Citizens For A Better Shrewsbury:

Consider absentee voting: It's not just for college students and others traveling. This is also an option for commuters or others who may not be able to get to their polling places in person. Deadline to apply for a ballot is noon the day before Election Day. Request a ballot from the town clerk either in person or by calling to ask that a ballot be mailed to the address designated by the voter on the application. Voted ballots may be returned

by mail or may be hand delivered to town clerk by the voter or a family member. Absentee ballots must be received in the town clerk's office by the close of polls on Election Day. Questions? Call the town clerk at (508) 841-8507.

Let your voice be heard. Vote in the general election!  
[www.citizensbettershrewsbury.org](http://www.citizensbettershrewsbury.org)

### 3. Contribute at Coolidge.

#### Halloween Candy Drive:

Traditionally each year at Coolidge, the PTO collects Halloween candy for St. Anne's human services. St. Anne's distributes the candy to qualified town residents, area shelters and soup kitchens to sweeten up Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. Most of the children fed there would not have had the opportunity to do much trick or treating on their own. There will be a box outside the office beginning November 1<sup>st</sup> through November 10<sup>th</sup>. Children who would like to share some of their Halloween candy may bring it and place it in the box themselves. Please send only prepackaged candy. In the past over 275 pounds of candy has been collected.

**Wishing Tree:** The Wishing Tree is filled with leaves with items your child's teacher is requesting. While you're at parent teacher conferences stop by and pick a leaf out to help out your child's teacher.

#### Volunteer Information:

We need help with Drop Off in the morning and Pick Up after

school. Also, we still need help with the Lunch/Recess duty. Please consider helping. If interested, contact Tricia O'Rawe (508) 756-9906 or [htorawe@hotmail.com](mailto:htorawe@hotmail.com).

#### Thanksgiving Baskets:

Today your child brought home a donation request for Thanksgiving Baskets that Coolidge has traditionally put together every year for families in need. Please send in the item requested and \$1.00 to go towards turkey vouchers by Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. We really appreciate your generosity in helping families in need.

### FALL FUNDRAISER PICK-UP:

The fall Fundraise items will be ready for pick up November 8 from 4:00-7:00pm.



#### Contact Information:



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